(b) Statistical data is maintained for each financial year ending 31st March. The details of Passengers Originating on Indian Railways for the last three years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as under :—

Year	No. of Passengers Originating (In millions)
1990-91	3,858
1991-92	4,049
1992-93	3,749

Reduction in passenger trains

1213. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has changed its priorities and decided to reduce passenger trains from the year 1994-95;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Running of Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Jalandhar

1214. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to start Delhi-Jalandhar-Delhi Shatabdi Express; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational constraints and lack of resources.

Extension of working hours of Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad

1215. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request(s) from Member (s) of Parliament has been received with regard to the extension of working hours of the Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad (Maharashtra from the present timing 10 am to 5 pm upto 8 pm when the Jalna-Bombay Express leaves Aurangabad to facilitate the public to obtain information about the arrival/departure of trains :

(b) whether any proposal for additional staff to keep the Enquiry counter open till late hours has been received from the Aurangabad Railway authorities ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. The Enquiry Counter at Aurangabad Railway Station is already functioning round-the-clock manned by Reservation Staff during day time and Ticket Collectors during night time.

Enquiry Committee report on the accident of Sahyadri Express and a bus in Puna

1216. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in December, 1993, a speeding Bombay bound Sahyadri Express hit a bus at an unmanned railway crossing resulting in the death of a large number of school children ;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the mishap ;

(c) what is the number of unmanned level crossings in various sections of the railways;

(d) how many unmanned level crossings are manned annually as against the target ;

(e) what are the reasons for the shortfall in the manned level crossings as against the annual target ; and

(f) whether any programme has been formulated for manning of the unmanned level crossings on priority basis to avoid such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, in his Preliminary report has observed that the accident was caused due to failure of the bus driver to observe the prescribed precautions at unmanned level crossing.

The details are as under : —

Railway	No. of unmanned level crossings in various zones
Central	1576
Eastern	886
Northern	3,657
North Eastern . . .	2,662
Northeast Frontier . .	1,801
Southern	2,432
South Central . . .	2,319
South Eastern . . .	3,545
Western	4,279
Total	23,157

(d) There is no annual target.

(e) Does not arse.

(f) No Sir. Manning of unmanned leve crossing is under-taken by the Railways sponsored by the State Govt./Local Authority duly consenting to bear the expenditure as pe rules.

पटना–गया रेल लाइन का दोहरा किया जाना

1217. श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार–मगध क्षेत्र की प्रगति के लिए पटना–गया रेलवे लाइन को दोहरी रेलवे लाइन बनाए जाने की मांग उस क्षेत्र के लोगों द्वारा काफी लम्बे समय से की जा रही है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस क्षेत्र का विकास तब तक सम्भव नहीं जब तक उक्त रेलवे लाइन को दोहरी रेलवे लाइन बनाने का कार्य सम्पन्न नहीं किया जायेगा ;

(ग) क्या रेल मंत्रालय पटना–गया रेलवे लाइन को दोहरा बनाने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. सी. लेंका) (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं : दोहरी लाइन बिछाना रेल प्रणाली की ढुलाई क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए मात्र परिचालनिक आवश्यकता है और ऐसा रेलों की यातायात की ढुलाई की स्वयं की जरूरत के लिए ही किया जाता है।

(ग) और (घ) एक सर्वेक्षण शुरू किया गया है। इस कार्य के बारे में आगे विचार करना सर्वेक्षण के परिणामों पर निर्भर करेगा।

झाझा मुगलसराय रेल लाइन का विद्युतिकरण

1218. श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने 1993 के रेल बजट में झाझा मुगलसराय मुख्य रेल लाइन के विद्युतिकरण की घोषणा की थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कार्य कब शुरू किया गया और कार्य में अभी तक हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो कार्य कब तक प्रारंभ किया जाएगा और इसकी समाप्ति कब तक होगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. सी. लेंका) : (क) जी, नहीं। रेलवे बजट 1992–93 में की गई घोषणा के अनुसार इस कार्य को शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव था।